

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious sheet;

a liquid impervious sheet; and

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core and being disposed between the liquid pervious sheet and the liquid impervious sheet, wherein

standing cuffs for surrounding wearer's legs are provided at respective opposite sides of said disposable absorbent article, each of said standing cuffs comprising a standing sheet and stretching members provided to the standing sheet,

said liquid pervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid pervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure,

the standing sheet has a proximal edge fixed to corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet, said proximal edge defining a base line extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article,

said standing sheet extends from the base line in a lateral direction with respect to said base line toward the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article, said standing sheet comprising a standing portion, a folding back portion, and a surface contacting portion, the

standing portion extending, on the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions, from the base line to the folding back portion and being folded back at the folding back portion, and the surface contacting portion extending, on the standing portion, from the folding back portion toward the base line,

two or more of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet are arranged in the vicinity of a free edge of said surface-contacting portion, said two or more stretching members being spaced apart from each other,

at least one of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet is arranged in said standing portion and in the vicinity of said base line,

at least one of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet is arranged in the vicinity of the folding back portion, and

during use of said disposable absorbent article, said standing cuffs are deformed by contractile force of said stretching members such that the standing portion extends in a substantially vertical direction relative to the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions and said surface-contacting portion extends toward corresponding one of the wearer's legs

~~an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;~~

~~opposite side flaps laterally extending from opposite side edges of said absorbent structure; and~~

~~opposite standing cuffs located longitudinally at opposite lateral sides of said absorbent structure so as to be provided separately from said absorbent structure and from said side flap, wherein~~

~~each of said standing cuffs has a free portion adapted to contact a wearer's leg,~~

~~said free portion is provided with stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion extends in a direction toward the wearer's leg when the wearer wears said article,~~

~~said free portion comprises a base portion attached to said side flap, a folding portion located at a longitudinal centerline side with respect to said base portion, a standing portion located between said base portion and said folding portion, a contacting portion folded back at said folding portion so as to extend laterally outward away from a longitudinal centerline and adapted to contact the wearer's leg,~~

~~two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other,~~

~~at least one said stretching member is arranged in the vicinity of a proximal end of said base portion,~~

~~at least one said stretching member is arranged in the vicinity of said folding portion, and when the wearer wears said article, said standing portion extends in a substantially vertical direction so that each of said standing cuffs extends in a direction toward the wearer's leg due to stretching force of said stretching members, while each of said side flaps between the side edge of said absorbent structure and said base portion of said free portion is deformed.~~

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein said standing portion at each of front and back ends of said disposable absorbent article is fixed to said pervious sheet, and said surface-contacting portion at each of the front and back

ends of said disposable absorbent article is fixed to corresponding said standing portion, the front and back ends respectively extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at a front end portion and at a back end portion in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article, said standing portion is attached on said article so as to extend in a direction toward the longitudinal centerline of said article, and said contacting portion is attached on said standing portion so as to fold back upon said standing portion.

29-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein plane-gathering cuffs are respectively provided to the respective laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet, said plane-gathering cuffs outwardly extending from the respective laterally extended portions ~~a plane-gathering cuff is provided outboard with respect to each of said standing cuffs.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein plane-gathering cuffs are not respectively provided to the respective laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet, said plane-gathering cuffs outwardly extending from the respective laterally extended portions ~~a plane-gathering cuff is not provided outboard with respect to each of said standing cuffs.~~

39-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein said the folding back portion of the folded free portion of the standing sheet is located outside of an area over said absorbent core ~~said folding portion is located outside of an area located over said absorbent structure.~~

49. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein~~[[:]]~~

a back sheet is disposed on a back-side of said liquid impervious sheet,

said liquid impervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid impervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond said

respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the laterally extended portions of the liquid impervious sheet being fixed to those of the liquid pervious sheet, respectively and

said proximal edge of the standing sheet is fixed to corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid impervious sheet and the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet

~~said absorbent structure is disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side and a back sheet is further provided on the back side of said liquid impervious sheet; and~~

~~said liquid impervious sheet extends outwardly in a lateral direction beyond the opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions and in each of said laterally extended portions, said free portion of said standing cuff extends from said liquid impervious sheet.~~

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein each of ~~[[all]]~~ said stretching members arranged in the vicinity of said ~~distal end~~ free edge of said ~~contacting~~ surface-contacting portion has 400 d to 640 d and ~~[[the]]~~ a contraction percentage of 160% to 300%, and each of ~~[[all]]~~ said stretching members arranged ~~between said proximal end of~~ in said standing portion ~~and said folding portion~~ has 640 d to 2100 d and ~~[[the]]~~ a contraction percentage of 150% to 250%.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, ~~wherein~~ further comprising stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure to lift the respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the stretching members extending along a direction parallel to the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article

~~said absorbent structure is disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side, and~~

~~between said absorbent structure and said liquid impervious sheet, stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to said base portion of said free portion.~~

54. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 53, wherein

said absorbent core has a hourglass-like shape having a wide width portion and a narrow width portion by constricting both side portions of the absorbent core so that the constricted side portions respectively encircle the wearer's legs, and

said stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure are arranged to overlap with said the wide width portion, but not to overlap with the narrow width portion

~~in leg portions which are to encircle said wearer's legs, said stretching members for lifting are not superposed on the narrow portions of the absorbent core of said absorbent structure, while in front end and back end of said disposable absorbent article in the longitudinal direction, said stretching members for lifting are superposed on said absorbent core of said absorbent structure.~~

55. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein further comprising stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent core to lift the respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the stretching members extending along a direction parallel to the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article

~~stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides so as to be in said absorbent core of said absorbent structure while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to said base portion of said free portion.~~

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56-61. (Cancelled)